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tained, they may be tabulated and kept for subsequent use. To ascertain these positions for any given magnification, a millimeter scale may be placed on the object-table, and the camera and objective moved until the picture projected on the drawing plane has the desired enlargement. When the scale is replaced by the object, care must be taken to have the surface, which is to be outlined, in the plane previously occupied by the scale. To this end it may be necessary to move the object-table a very little, in order to give a sharply defined picture, the positions of the camera and objective being left unaltered.

The object-table measures $8 \times 10^{\text{cm}}$, and has a central perforation 2.5^{cm} in diam. The whole apparatus is completed by a movable shade, designed to cut off the light falling on the lens and on the drawing plane.

It is hardly necessary to remark that opaque objects require direct sunlight or light from a lamp supplied with a bull's eye condenser.

This instrument, including lens, and Oberhäuser's camera lucida, may be obtained from Geo. A. Smith & Co., 7 Park street, Boston, for thirty dollars. For everything except the camera, the price is fifteen dollars.

THE MICROBE OF "RED EVIL," A PIG DISEASE.—A disease of pigs, known in France as *rouget* or *mal rouge* (red evil), has of late, says the *English Mechanic*, wrought terrible ravages in the Rhone valley, 20,000 pigs having succumbed in a year. M. Pasteur has detected the microbe to which the disease is due. It is something like that of chicken cholera, but much smaller and different in physiological properties. Its form is that of the figure 8. It has no action on fowls, but rapidly kills rabbits and sheep. Injected in almost inappreciable quantity into pigs, it suffices to cause mortal disease. M. Pasteur has succeeded in producing an attenuated form of this virus, wherewith healthy pigs may be vaccinated and rendered refractory to the contagion.

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SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

— Dr. D. G. Brinton, of Philadelphia, is about to publish an important work entitled LIBRARY OF ABORIGINAL AMERICAN LITERATURE. The following are some of the works which it is proposed to issue in this series: No. 1. THE CHRONICLES OF THE MAYAS, edited by D. G. Brinton, M.D. This volume will contain five brief chronicles in the Maya language of Yucatan, written shortly after the conquest, and carrying the history of that people back many centuries. Four of these have never been published, nor even translated into any European tongue. Each will be given in the original, with a literal translation and grammatical and historical notes. To these will be added a history of the

conquest, written in his native tongue by a Maya chief, in 1562. This also is from an unpublished MSS. The texts will be preceded by an introduction on the history of the Mayas; their language, calendar, numeral system, etc., and a vocabulary will be added at the close. No. II. CENTRAL AMERICAN CALENDARS. A number of native calendars and "wheels," used by the Mayas, Kiches, Cakchiquels, and neighboring tribes, in reckoning time and forecasting the future, will be published for the first time, with explanations. From lack of sufficient material, this important point in American archæology has remained extremely obscure. The collection which it is intended to embrace in this volume is unquestionably unique of its kind. No. III. THE ANNALS OF QUAUHTITLAN. The original Aztec text, with a new translation. This is also known as the *Codex Chimalpopoca*. It is one of the most curious and valuable documents in Mexican archæology. No. IV. THE NATIONAL LEGEND OF THE CREEKS, edited by Albert S. Gatschet. Mr. Gatschet will present (1.) The original German account, written in 1735, by which this legend has been transmitted; (2.) Its English translation; (3.) Its retranslation into the Creek language, in which it was originally delivered, by an educated native; (4.) Its translation in the Hitchiti, a dialect cognate to the Creek; (5.) Glossaries and ethnographic notes. No. V. THE CHRONICLES OF THE CAKCHIQUELS. These chronicles are the celebrated *Memorial de Tecpan Atitlan* so often quoted by the late Abbe Brasseur de Bourbourg. They are invaluable for the ancient history and mythology of Guatemalan nations, and are of undoubted authenticity and antiquity. Each of these works will be printed in the original tongue, with an English translation and notes. Every work admitted to the series will be the production of a native, and each will have some intrinsic importance, either historical or ethnological, in addition to its value as a linguistic monument. Most of them will be from unpublished manuscripts, and every effort will be made to secure purity of text and competent editorship. A subscription to the first number will not bind the subscriber to future volumes. The address of the publisher is D. G. Brinton, M.D., 115 South Seventh street, Philadelphia.

— Belgian Prize Essays.—From the Belgian Academy comes an offer of 3000f. for the best essay on the destruction of fishes by the pollution of rivers. Four topics, says *Nature*, are specified: 1. What are the matters special to the principal industries which, mixing with the waters of small rivers, render them incompatible with the existence of fishes, unfit for public supply and hurtful to cattle? 2. A list of the rivers of Belgium which are now "depopulated" by reason of impurities produced by factories, with an enumeration also of the fishes useful for food found in the various streams before industrial institutions had sent waste products into the waters. 3. Investigation and indication of

practical means regarding the purification of the waters as they came from the works so as to render the streams suitable for fish life without crippling the industry, and taking into consideration such resources as may be offered by the construction of basins for deposition, of filtration apparatus, and of the recourse to chemical reagents. 4. Separate experiments on the matters which, in each special industry, cause the death of fishes, and on the degree of the resistance of each edible fish to destruction. All the memoirs must be sent in before October 1, 1884, to receive any attention.

— The general regret and sense of the great loss to biological science in the death of Professor Balfour, has led to the establishment of a memorial fund, the proceeds of which are to go to establish a studentship of \$1000 annually, to be open to any one, in any country, for original research in animal morphology. A committee has been constituted in this country of which Professor H. Newell Martin of Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md., is the secretary. It is hoped that contributions, even if in small sums, will be sent by biologists in this country, so as to give an international support to the movement. The student appointed to fill the place must reside at Cambridge, England, but will be entitled to grants for aid in research, or in traveling or exploring with a view to furthering the science.

— A private letter received in Detroit announces the death of the Rev. Titus Coan, at Hilo, Sandwich islands, December 2, aged 82 years. Dr. Coan was a veteran missionary of the American Board, and had been known for years as the apostle of the Sandwich islands, having been there for over fifty years. For nearly forty years he has contributed able accounts to the *American Journal of Science*, of the eruptions of Mount Loa and Kilauea.

— The Buffalo Society of Sciences has had a bequest from Dr. Hayes, said to amount to \$150,000, which however will not be available at present. The society has just completed arrangements for printing its Bulletin for a year or more in advance.

— The first of a series of free lectures under the auspices of the New York Academy of Sciences was given in the new hall of the Academy of Medicine, by Professor Edward D. Cope, of Philadelphia, on "The Evolution of the Vertebrata."

— By the will of the late Augustus Story \$10,000 is left to the Essex Institute, Salem, Mass., the income to be given to his sister Eliza during her life.

— Some forty eminent Germans have founded, says *Nature*, a German Botanical Society.

— Died on the 24th of November, Mr. Andrew Pritchard, author of "A History of Infusoria," the fourth edition of which

was published in 1861, numbering nearly 1000 pages. He was also the author of "Microscopic Illustrations," "Micrographia" and the "Microscopic Cabinet," but he will be chiefly held in remembrance in this country as the author of the useful and laborious work first mentioned. He was born in London in 1804.

— Casimir-Joseph Davaine, who first suggested, says the *Journal de Micrographie*, the germ disease theory, and who discovered the bacterium of carbuncle, died at Garches, near Paris, Oct. 15, 1882.

— Dr. Thwaites, for many years director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya, Ceylon, died, Sept. 11, at Kandy.

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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—Communications were presented by Professor Theo. Gill on the Stromateidæ; Professor D. W. Prentiss on changes produced in the bird fauna of the District of Columbia by modifications of its topography.

Dec. 22.—Communications were made by Dr. Elliott Coues on zoological nomenclature applied to histology; Dr. M. G. Ellzey on hybrid sterility; Dr. T. H. Bean on the occurrence of the alewife in Lake Ontario; and by Professor C. V. Riley on the lignified snake of Brazil, with exhibition of specimen.

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, Dec. 18.—A paper was read on the language, beliefs and superstitions of the Iroquois Indians (illustrated with early and remarkable manuscripts dictionaries, etc., etc.), by Mrs. Erminnie A. Smith.

BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY, Dec. 20.—Miss Alice A. Fletcher gave an account of the sun dance of the Sioux Indians; and Dr. Charles S. Minot spoke on the rate of growth in man.

Jan. 3, 1883.—Professor C. O. Whitman described a rare form of the blastoderm of the chick, and discussed its bearing on the question of the formation of the vertebrate embryo; Dr. S. Kneeland presented some notes on the natural history of the Philippines, etc., showing specimens.

AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, Dec. 20. — Andrew D. White, LL.D., delivered a lecture on the New Germany.

Jan. 9, 1883.—Daniel C. Gilman, LL.D., delivered the annual address, entitled the North American continent, four centuries of discovery.

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB, Dec. 15.—Mr. W. O. Crosby read a paper on the mountains of Eastern Cuba.